of cases pending in Subordinate Judiciary in respect of the State of Punjab is 492442 as on 21-3-2005; out of which 5244 cases are 10 years, 773 cases are 15 years and 215 cases are 20 years old.

(c) The Punjab and Haryana High Court has informed that the following steps have been taken for speedy disposal:

(i) A Grouping Cell has been established to sort out cases in which same or similar law points are involved, so that those cases could be placed together for disposal before a particular Bench.

(ii) Judges who are familiar with the particular branch of law involved in the cases are being assigned such cases to the extent possible.

(iii) Many cases are being disposed of at the motion/admission stage to avoid delay.

In addition, the Government has been periodically monitoring the pendency position in various courts. The steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases, include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc.

Appointment of Notary Public

3342. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Notary Public appointed during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the number of posts of Notary Public lying vacant in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A Statement indicating the number of

Notary Public who have been appointed in various parts of the Country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise statement is given in the Statement *(See below).*

(b) It has been prescribed by the Notaries Rules, 1956 that maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the Central Government in respect of Tamil Nadu State is 725 and out of which, 31 notaries have been appointed by the Central Government so far.

Statement

Number of Central Notary Public appointed during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise:

Notary Public

		2002	2003	2004
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01	02	04
2.	Assam	—	—	—
3.	Bihar	—	—	02
4.	Gujarat	25	08	15
5.	Kerala	06	03	28
6.	Madhya Pradesh	—	02	—
7.	Tamil Nadu	02	02	04
8.	Maharashtra	30	27	35
9.	Karnataka	07	08	09
10.	Orissa	—	—	—
11.	Punjab	43	18	31
12.	Rajasthan	24	10	14
13.	Uttar Pradesh	52	33	51
14.	West Bengal	17	03	04
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
16.	Nagaland	—	—	—
17.	Haryana	60	33	42

	2002	2003	2004
18. Himachal Pradesh	01	—	—
19. Manipur	—	—	—
20. Tripura	—	—	—
21. Meghalaya	—	—	—
22. Sikkim	—	—	—
23. Mizoram	—	—	—
24. Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
25. Goa	—	—	—
26. Uttranchal	—	—	—
27. Chhattisgarh	—	03	—
28. Jharkhand	—	—	—
29. Delhi	37	08	16
30. Andaman & Nicobar Island	—	—	—
31. Lakshdweep	—	—	—
32. Dadara & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
33. Daman & Diu	—	—	—
34. Pondicherry	—	—	—
35. Chandigarh	—	—	—

National Legal Services Authority Scheme

3343. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to meagre allocation of funds for the National Legal Services Authority scheme, the purpose of providing free legal aid to weaker sections of the society has been defeated;